

**Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes, May 18, 2006  
Medal of Honor Hall  
California Department of Veterans Affairs  
1227 O St., Sacramento, CA 95814**

**Participants**

**DVBE Advisory Council Members**

Allen Amaro, Robert Brown, Gene Farnsworth, Don Gonneville, Bob Mulz, Michael O'Connor, Ken Shoemake, Francis Trottier, Timothy Voors, Robert Yaap

**California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA)**

Jack Kirwan, California DVBE Advocate, Veterans Services Division; Ralph Cansimbe, Operations Manager, Veterans Services Division; Stewart MacKenzie, DVBE Outreach Coordinator, Veterans Services Division

**Department of General Services (DGS)**

Eric Mandell, Outreach and Communications Manager; Lori Okamoto, Outreach and Education Coordinator; Russ Guarna, Purchasing Manager

**Absent DVBE Advisory Council Members**

Larry Brooks, Gary Herbold, Michael Johnson, Floyd Knox, Kevin O'Connor

**Guests**

Copy of guest sign-in available upon request

*Standing Committee Meetings*

*Legislation, Procurement, State Agency and Outreach Focus – 8:30-10:00a.m.*

- **Welcome and Introductions 10:00 a.m.**

*Jack Kirwan*

- **Approval of Minutes 10:05 a.m. ~ March 16, 2006**

Amendments to the minutes presented by Don Gonneville –  
Motion: *K. Shoemake*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion: *R. Brown* ~ Passed

## **Business Items**

- **Strategic Sourcing Initiative Update – 10:10 a.m.**  
*Russ Guarna, Purchasing Manager*
- **DGS Update: Legislation, Regulations, & Policies/Procedures, SB Council, SB 115 Implementation Update – 10:30 a.m.**

*Russ Guarna, Purchasing Manager; Eric Mandell, Outreach and Communications Manager*

- **Changing the Council Meetings from Bi-Monthly to Quarterly--11:30 a.m.**

*Jack Kirwan*

1. Current council by-laws call for six yearly meetings. Members expressed problems with attending meetings due to airline schedules, etc.
2. Suggestions: meet quarterly, meet during intervening months at member's convenience for date and location. CDVA would provide funding support for council and committee travel costs.
3. Motion was made to try quarterly council meetings for one year.  
Motion: *B. Yaap, 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion: G.Farnsworth~ Passed*

**LUNCH—12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

## **Business/Discussion Items**

- **Committee Reports – 1:00 p.m.**

*Legislative Chair, Bob Yaap*

1. Suggested that the state develop and introduce a Mentor-Protégé program to provide assistance to DVBE's in starting and/or expanding their business.
2. Objectives include: Assisting as many DVBE's as possible, DVBE's that are selected should be capable of being mentored and trained in a new business or allow them to expand their current business or businesses, and help CA state agencies and prime contractors to meet their DVBE goals.
3. Suggestions, questions and potential problems include: participation in the M-P program should not eliminate DVBE's from participation as a supplier/service provider to the mentor. Would the program have to be passed legislatively in CA? What fiscal impact would this reimbursement program have to the state of CA and is that viable?
4. Department of rehab could be a player.

*Outreach Chair, Gene Farnsworth*

1. Talked about possible DVBE Networks forming in Fresno and Redding.
2. Reminded the Council of the Elite's National Convention of Small and Disabled Veteran Businesses in San Diego on August 9-11, 2006. Also, the Los Angeles Metropolitan Water Districts event on August 17, 2006.

- **Council Forum: Member Issues – 2:00 p.m.**

1. Gene Farnsworth Requested that CDVA and DGS report on the Advocates Workgroup meetings at each DVBE Council meeting.
2. The Council had general comments on the committees being more active *between* meetings, instead of trying to conduct all committee business prior to the meeting.
3. Francis Trottier ask DGS to report who is mandated, and who is not mandated to use the DVBE program?

- **Public Comments – 2:30 p.m.**

*Don Zweifel*

1. Spoke about Senator Machado.
2. Asked about DVBE legal mandates and the core section and which laws supercede other laws.

- **Closing Remarks & Next Meeting Date: July 20, 2006 – 2:55 p.m.**

- **Adjournment-- 3:00 p.m.**

*Jack Kirwan*

Any questions, please contact:  
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